

Remarks

Claims 40-59 are pending in the subject application. By way of this amendment, claims 40-59 have been canceled and new claims 60-92 have been presented. With respect to the requirement for an election of species in this matter, Applicants have elected an invention that does not require an election of species for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 60-92 are currently before the Examiner. Elected Group I corresponds to newly presented claims 60-63 and 67-69 and favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

As the Examiner is aware, this application is a national stage application and is subject to the unity of invention rules for restriction. The principles of unity of invention are used to determine the types of claimed subject matter and the combinations of claims to different categories of invention that are permitted to be included in a single international or national stage patent application. The basic principle is that an application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, that applicant would have a right to include in a single application only those inventions which are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Additionally, a group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. The expression "special technical feature" is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. In this instance, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and respectfully assert that the newly presented claims are all linked by a special technical feature that involves the binding of CC-chemokines by the claimed polypeptide sequences. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the holding of lack of unity with respect to the presently claimed invention is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



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